poor countries in Asia as per the study conducted by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the position of India vis-a-vis the other countries;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any ambitious scheme to remove poverty from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the above scheme is likely to be helpful in removing poverty from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Provision for Education/Health/Social Services

2339. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to ensure provision of 6% of GDP for Education, Health and other social services by 2000 AD;

(b) the details of success achieved so far service-wise, indicating the Central and State allocations; and

(c) the increase in percentage in population having access to education, health, sanitation and other social services during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) Approach paper to the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) elaborates the Government's commitment to ensure provision of adequate resources for education, health and other social services. The Basic Minimum Services programme envisages access of all seven BMS namely, universal primary education, provision of safe drinking water, health facilities, housing for all, nutritional support to children, connectivity to unconnected villages and streamlining the public distribution system with a focus on the poor.

(b) According to 1996-97 (Budget estimates), the plan outlay for social services for centre, states and UTs was Rs. 30490.77 crore against Rs. 23178.56 crore in 1995-96 (revised estimates). Out of this total amount of Rs. 30490.77 crore, a sum of Rs. 3132.97 crore is budgeted for general education, Rs. 814.30 crore for medical and public health, Rs. 1535.00 crore on family welfare and Rs. 1740.75 crore for housing.

(c) National programme on nutritional support to primary education is likely to cover 10.82 crore children in primary classes in all government, local body and government aided schools by 1997-98. In the area of primary health care infrastructure, 21853 primary health centres were in position in end March 1996 in addition to 132727 sub-centres and 2424 community health centres in the country. The number of primary health centres in end March 1994 and March 1995 stood at 21206 and 21536 respectively. According to the estimates prepared by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, 50 per cent of urban population was covered with sanitation facilities against 45.9 per cent in 1990.

Setting up New Board

2340. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a new Board to speed up Public Sector Core Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up new Board to speed up public sector core projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Chinese Missiles

2341. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI PARSARAM BHARDWAJ :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New Chinese Missiles target India and Russia-US Daily" appearing in "Times of India" dated July 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

(c) the details of missiles positioned towards India;